



# KwaZulu-Natal, Scout Trail



**SCOUTS**  
South Africa

REPORTING Scouting VIEWS AND NEWS IN KWAZULU-NATAL FOR OVER 60 YEARS

## WHY I AM A Scout?

**Hi, my name is Lungile Dotye, my friends call me Stompy and am from 2nd Imbaliyamazulu Troop.** I am 16 years and have been a Scout since 2005. I honestly joined Scouting because my brother, Tyson, was a Scout, but my love of Scouting grew as I faced challenges. Being a Scout made me a woman with values and always want to stand out and make a positive difference, no matter what the situation. Because of Scouting values I became a hard worker at school and am now a bursary student at Inanda Seminary and busy with grade 11. I realised that Scouting is not just about camping but also much about learning a new range of skills that are helping to groom future leaders. I would encourage the youth of today to come along to a Troop meeting, which is usually so much fun, and see how Scouting will add value to your life!



## Scouts save a three decade old indigenous tree from the chop

**All too often our street trees are cut down to make way for new developments. Well, this all changed when the Hillcrest Scouts decided to save a 6 meter Albizina tree destined to be cut, owing to the widening of Inanda road. They relocated it three kilometres down the road and transplanted it at their Scout hall.**

It was quite an undertaking to transplant and relocate this 30 year old indigenous tree, which had to be carefully supervised by a horticulturalist to ensure the root ball was protected while digging it out. Kevin Dolloway from Lady Bird landscapes said: "We started to dig two days before the tree was to be moved and had to wrap the root ball in plastic cling wrap to hold the soil binding the root."

Steve Camp, chairman of 1st Hillcrest Scouts, who co-ordinated this project said: "It was fantastic the way everyone wanted to help. Martin and East, the construction company that is widening Inanda Road, provided a digger. Lovemore Brothers loaned the 15 tonne crane and low bed rig at no cost so that we could transport the tree."

The operation got underway at 08h00 and it was after midday by the time the tree had been moved to its new home and placed in its newly dug hole at the 1st Hillcrest Scout grounds.

"Our urban forest around Hillcrest is made up of our street and garden trees, which we need to look after and protect," said Camp. "When these trees are cut down all the benefits of having these trees along our roads are gone as well."

"Martin and East have made a big effort to save as many trees as possible along Inanda road by relocating them back off the road, where they are out of harm's way, which the local community applauds."

## Air Scouts help out at air show

**1st Cowies Hill Air-Scouts joined forces with 58th Durban Air-Scouts and 1st Horizon Scout Group to sell books for the organisers of the Virginia Air Show.** It was a great way for our air Scouts to be part of the air show, being able to get up close to all the action and chat to many pilots on the day. Walking around in their air Scout uniform also attracted so many positive compliments from the public and many people who thought Scouts had long since stopped, delighted to find otherwise and discover that local Scouting is alive and well!

Our Scouts worked as a team and our Cubs worked in teams of two, we sold over 50 books. Their enormous efforts were rewarded by being able to watch such internationally recognised masters of the heights as CC Pocock from Bush Air. CC is well known for his expertise in stunt

flying as well as his pyrotechnic displays. The photo shows our willing compliment in front of a small Cessna that was advertised as for sale at the show. Not in this photo but worthy of mention are the awesome Dads we had supervising our youngsters, a very big thank you to Max, Steve, Mark and Ryan.

We are very proud of the excellent work done by our air Cubs and Scouts and hope that next year we will be able to field an even bigger contingent to assist the organisers of this awesome Air-show. See you all at the Virginia Air-Show 2014 !!



CC Pocock seen here with Tristan, Maggie, Luke, Vincent, Kyle and Matt.



Representing the Cubs are: Josh, Kyle C, Maggie, Luke, Vincent, Caleb, Keegan and Kyle B. The Scouts are: Rudi, Tristan & Matt.



# Scouts Volunteer 67 minutes towards worthy community projects

A number of Scout groups around the province supported this national initiative with some wonderfully creative community projects:

## Scouts to the aid of the SPCA

**Louise Potgieter Troop Scouter at 1st Yellowwood Group reports...**The 1st Yellowwood Group decided that they would make a weekend of their community service and chose the weekend of 5-7 July as it was school holidays. The activity at the SPCA formed part of our Annual Challenge. We removed poisonous weed, creosoted poles and chopped wood. There was a lot of hard work that went into making a difference and that we certainly did! The area was vastly improved looking when we had finished off with lots of thanks from the SPCA staff. Our Scouts also went on a collection drive for the SPCA to collect unwanted books and household goods for their shop.



**Creosoting of poles**

*Tyrone de Lange, Kyle Schaper, Connor Francis, Trystan de Lange*



**Woodcutters**

*Kyle Schaper, Travis Mc Intosh, Connor Francis*



**The Yellowwood Park Scout group delivered their first load of donations to the SPCA Kloof on 8 July.**

*BACK: Barbara Masterton (SPCA representative), Louise Potgieter (1st Yellowwood Park Troop Scouter), Cloe Murgatroyd, Zhane Potgieter, Connor Francis, Kyle Schaper*



**Removal of poisonous weed**

*FAR BACK: Trystan de Lange, Kyle Schaper  
BACK: Cloe Murgatroyd, Zhane Potgieter, Corwin Quail, Connor Francis, Travis Mc Intosh, Thendral Valayatham  
MIDDLE: Wesley Mc Intosh, Ethan Lester, Curtis Mc Intosh, Priyan Valayatham, Tyrone de Lange  
FRONT: Louise Potgieter (Troop Scouter)*

## Cubs help to look after **dogs** in an underprivileged community

**Lynda Thurman of 1st Umbogintwini Cub Pack reports that Sixers Julian Glenister and Byron Schamrell of 1st Umbogintwini Cub Pack volunteered to help distribute food with "Helping Paws".**

Helping Paws is a group of people who get together to help underprivileged children look after their dogs. The children gather every Saturday at a field in Umbogintwini, as you can see in the photograph there are many children and dogs present. Each child is given a collar and lead for their dogs, they are given a packet of food for each dog and a veterinarian examines and treats any sick dogs. The veterinarian takes a number of dogs each week to be neutered, this is done at the owners request and for free.

The food is distributed in the plastic bags that bread comes in, any Packs that can collect and drop the empty packets at HQ would be most welcome.



*Julian and Byron helped distribute the food and were amazed at the number of dogs and children present. The Cubs have decided to help out regularly and use the project as part of their Leaping Wolf Badge as their Global Challenge.*

## Scouts build a new **play centre** from recycled material

**Janet Talbot, assistant Troop Scouter at 4th Durban reports...**We decided at 4th Durban Scouts to make a play centre for a local underprivileged Child and Youth Care centre as our contribution, which was way more than 67 minutes! First old car tyres were collected over a number of weeks which had to be painted and holes drilled in to be bolted together to create suitable equipment in the playground. On the actual day, the Scouts worked extremely hard to finish off the play centre having created a wide range of new equipment for these underprivileged kids. This has been a very successful project that is being put to good use by the kids in the centre. A big thanks to all the parents who helped make this a reality.





# Scouts clean up and beautify neglected community taxi rank



*The last tree about to be planted!*

**Over 13 1st Hillcrest Scouts took on the Hillcrest taxi rank as their project of choice.**

An enthusiastic afternoon resulted in all litter being removed and nine indigenous trees being planted. Their efforts met with the firm approval of the regular taxi rank users who congratulated them on their community service with some even volunteering to assist. 1st Hillcrest Scout, Bradley Stokes (15) said, "The Scouts thought this would be a valuable community project as the taxi commuters will really benefit in a few years time when the trees are mature and attract birdlife and offer much needed shade". The funding of this environmental community project was made through DPSG, one of the German Scout Associations, in collaboration with Scouts South Africa.



*The group pause for a break and quick photo between picking up litter and digging holes.*

## Mayan adventure for Cubs

**Our Adventure started as our plane took a nosedive and plummeted down to Earth in the middle of the Mayan Jungle – 'BP Camp'. Hosts 1st Glenashley Journey's End were joined by Cubs from 57th Trafalgar, Howick and Richards Bay and together we discovered the wonders of the ancient Mayan People, hidden treasures of gold and ancient civilizations of a wondrous kingdom buried deep in the unforgiving jungle.**

Cubs were divided into 4 teams from the ancient Mayan cities of Campeche, Chiapas, Yucatan and Quintana Roo. They made their own head-dresses, Mayan bracelets, special feathered woggles and crocodile eggs, but not before painting their team flags, listening to JP Wittstock – 'The Snake man' give a talk on his wonderful reptiles.

Cubs also completed a teambuilding obstacle course and treasure hunt to find

their very own treasure chest of gold left for them in a volcano by the ancient Mayan gods.

After lunch we got down to some work and made musical instruments – drums and real reed pan-pipes, just as the Mayans made and still make today.

We were honoured to be joined by Mayan King Hawkeye for dinner, and then it was off to campfire before we learned to live off the land, in an edible bug hunt, for dried spiders, dried red killer ants, worms, larvae, cocoons, leaves, twigs, non-edible glow-worms and more.

Day two in the Mayan jungle was started off with a beautiful Cubs Own and a picture taking expedition where we took photos of some of the beautiful and strange animals found in the Mayan Jungle. Then off to learn more with decorated blow-darts and a life-size target

for practice, bows and arrows with more targets to improve their aim, a fishing base with rewards for catching the 'special fish' and finally completing a wooden 'climbing' howler monkey.

After lunch everyone's favourite, muddy and challenging team obstacle course, where as usual the girls in pretty pink got just as muddy as the boys. This year our CI's were challenged by the Cubs to beat their times and also complete the obstacle course.

Cubs were finally rescued by their parents from the depths of the Mayan Jungle, dirty, exhausted and happy!

Until next year, when we have more adventures planned!

*Akela and Baloo  
1st Glenashley Journey's End.*





# Scout Rally a huge success

Scouts and Cubs from all around Kwazulu-Natal converged at the community sports stadium at Mpumulanga in July to take part in this annual event. Some of the Scouts who travelled from the most northern parts of our province, were on the road from the early hours of the morning and faced a seven hour drive to be on time for the 10 o'clock official opening. Just over 3 000 Scouts took part and had their Scouting skills tested at various bases scattered around the stadium. The bases were co-ordinated by Pat Brown and manned by adult leaders from the open groups to ensure the testing was unbiased. It was the tenth occasion that this rally was organised by Goodenough Dlamini and his team which included Mondli Dlamini and Nosisa Ntuli who again ensured that the rally was a professionally run Scouting event.

The two guests of honour were the deputy minister for Finance, the honourable



Nhlanhala Nene, and MEC for KZN, Sbu Ndebele. Both of whom walked around to visit the Scouting pioneering projects that were on display and to chat with Scouts and Cubs. They were both impressed with turn out and support that Scouting has amongst the KZN youth. In their speeches they both again reinforced the important role that Scouting was playing in the community. The event concluded with the overall winners being announced who were 1st Mbaliyamazulu Troop and 1st Mbhasobheni Pack, lifting the trophy for the second consecutive year.





# Scottish Cub Scouts raise funds for KZN Scouts

In the spring of 2006 Cub Leader Ron Nairn from Aberdeenshire, Scotland made contact with the then Provincial Manager of KZN, Lorna Newman. Between them they discussed the idea of raising funds for less fortunate areas in KZN in an effort to promote awareness of 'Scouting for all' and to help in any relevant projects. It would also promote an International link between the 1st Kintore Cub Pack in Scotland and the South African Scout Association in KZN.

Ron had visited the area several times and fallen in love with the country. He says, "When KZN get's in to your blood it becomes like an addiction, you just want more!"

Lorna and Ron kicked off the partnership. As a means to raise funds The Kintore Cub pack instigated an annual South Africa sponsored hike, which still took place in 2013 even in the late snows of the Scottish spring. Each Cub individually raises as much money as possible

and it is all collected together before being transferred to KZN Scouting. Ron says, "It is a very worthwhile scheme with no middle men". As a reward all the Cubs and leader who take part are given a South African Scouting 'year' badge which is proudly worn on their uniforms.

Over the years the annual hike has expanded and has also involved members of their Beaver colony Scout Troop and leaders desperate to get their prized South Africa badge.



*The 1st Kintore Cub Scouts on their 2013, 10 mile sponsored hike around Loch Muick in the Scottish Highlands.*

On hearing of Lorna's recent retirement from KZN Scouting, Ron feared the highly successful partnership may fall by the way side but thankfully the new manager Imelda Haarhoff stepped straight in to Lorna's shoes and the

unique partnership between KZN Scouting and the 1st Kintore Cub Scouts is set to continue.

Since 2006 the Scottish group have proudly raised over R102,800 to help worthwhile projects in KZN.

From everyone in KZN Scouts and very BIG thanks to the Scottish Cubs and Scouts for all your hard fundraising which continues to make a significant difference to assist Scouting in our underprivileged communities.

## CASTAWAY Cubs EARN BOATING INTEREST BADGE



*Now that's how a boat is made out of recycled material... but will it float?*

**Judy Elderton, Greater Durban/Endlovini District Cub Commissioner reports that...**

About 75 Cubs were left at the Beachwood Mangroves by their parents on Sunday 25 August. They were Castaways – dumped on an Island. The Castaways were put into rotating bases in the morning. They walked around the Mangroves and had some time to play on the beach. Made boats to sail away from the Island

– and all did the requirements of the Model boat Interest badge. learnt the parts of a boat, made a boat with a propeller and the highlight was to make the famous Santa Maria and get to sail it in the water which they all so enjoyed. After lunch Jean and Lynda from 1st Umbogentwini gave a wonderful talk and demonstration on the coconut and its uses. All the Cubs got to taste it and were fascinated. Everyone then walked to

the mouth of the Umgeni River and spent the afternoon cleaning up the beach – some even found some coconuts that were washed up. All the Castaways managed to get off the Island very tired and a bit wet!! and got home to their parents safely. It was a great day and all the Cubs from 52nd Sea Scout Pack, 4th Durban, 1st Umbogentwini, 1st Glenashley and 57th Trafalgar really enjoyed themselves.

*What a pile of rubbish we collected!*



# Pioneering meets water

**The Hastings Challenge, organised by 57th Durban Trafalgar is not for the faint hearted!** Scouts have to design, construct and then sleep, cook and essentially live on their newly built rafts for 24 hours. This popular challenging fun event is held each year at the sea Scout base, Camp Fish Eagle on the Durban Bay.

With fierce competition from other Scout groups, it was 1st Hillcrest who after hours of hard work and careful attention to detail were announced overall winners of this year's Hastings Challenge and awarded the Top Raft and Best Gadget Trophies, making it three consecutive wins in the last three years for them.



**Winners of this year's Hastings Challenge  
Top Raft and Best Gadget Trophies**

*(l-r) The Sparrows: Cormac O'Riley, Adam Stokes, Nicholas Frauenstein, Devon Oosthuizen (PL), Chris Myeza, Devon Smith (2nd)*

# KZN Rovers host visiting German Rover crew

*Two German Recruits being invested as Rovers during the campfire, a very special African experience for them.*



**Over 30 German Rovers from Baden recently spent three nights staying in the 1st Hillcrest cabins before travelling up to Newcastle.** They used the hall as a base from where they toured around Durban and surrounding areas until their last evening where they were hosted to a wonderfully cooked potjie meal by the Highway Rover Crew. The Square Law Rover Crew from Pietermaritzburg came down and joined in with the evening of fun, fellowship and ended with a campfire held under a perfect starlit African sky where there was much laughter and sharing of English and German skits. New friendships were made (while trying to learn camp fire songs, in German – "99 balloons") that once again proved that we are part of a wonderful Movement.

Big thanks to Highway crew leader, Graeme Mc Intosh for co-ordinating their stay and for organising their final dinner.



## Hillcrest Cubs awarded link badge

**Well done to all the 1st Hillcrest Cubs who successfully passed their link badge.** A big thanks to Troop Scouters, Denzil Barnard and Tim Goodrick who organised the link camp with their Scouts.

**An exciting moment for these young Cubs who are about to go up to Scouts.**

*(l-r) Andrew Done, Tyron Dolloway, Kaei Robinson, Garth Freemantle, Conrad Mayer-Smith, Kevin Salter, Daniel de Beer With Cub and Scout leaders Tim Goodrick, Helen Lewis, Kerry Ann Dolaway and Denzil Barnard.*

**The global brotherhood of Scouting as Luke Butler-Shirley, a visiting Scout from Alaska, is flanked by Devon Oosthuizen and Devon Smith around the warmth of an African camp fire.**



## Alaskan Scout visits local KZN Scout Troop

**There are over 23 million Scouts around the world, so it's always wonderful to meet one from a different country, even more so when that Scouts joins in with a meeting and camps.** Luke Butler-Shirley was out with his mum, Fiona, visiting his grandparents in Hillcrest for three weeks over the July holidays. Here is a short paragraph written by Luke...

"I have enjoyed my short but wonderful time with the Hillcrest Scouts. I have only been to one meeting and on one campout but it felt like I had been there for years. As soon as I stepped through the door I was welcomed and met a bunch of new friends. On the campout the Scouts I met became great friends. I learned lots of new things and games like stalk the lantern, making a welcome mat with wax and if you have a meal with people, with a great atmosphere, it tastes a whole lot better. I have had a totally awesome time and will miss every Scout. Thank you everyone and I will definitely visit next time!"



# Pioneering with a difference!



*"Spaghetti pioneering went down well at a recent 1st Hillcrest Troop evening with patrols competing for the highest tower construction using marshmallows as connectors."*

## Scouts ride Amashova

**Seven Scouts, one Scouter and six parents from Siyizinyoni Troop woke up for an early, chilly start to the 35Km Amashova ride from Hillcrest on Sunday 13 October.** All had a great ride with times of between 1 and 2 hours. Here are some of the comments from the Scouts:

"I thought the race was very fun and was amazed to see so many people there especially from all age groups including little children to grannies and grandpas and I even saw people learning how to ride a bike and change gears on the race, but

overall was very nice to see so many people getting out there and doing something and I was also impressed with the disabled cycles who I thought did very well." – Thomas du Preez [14].

"The Amashova was an exciting and fun experience especially when shared with my fellow Scouts. At the start of the race in Hillcrest we met up. During the race we couldn't all stick together but some of us did and we enjoyed the ride. Thanks to Denzil, our Scout leader, for organizing so that we could all do it." – Andrew Done [11].

"It was a cold and very early start for this year's Amashova but looking forward to doing a sub one hour. Luckily it had warmed up enough by the time we reached Fields Hill to have a safe, dry trip down. I met a couple of Scouts along the way and even a few Scout supporters on the side of the road. At one point I rode with one of the disabled riders and could not believe the speed he got down hills and how well he "pedalled" up the steep hills too. I heard one of the Rovers rode all the way with another disabled rider. Got some strange looks from the roadies as I pedalled past on my MTB with hiking boots on, but no time to waste as I needed to get going to keep up an average 36km/hr. I did not make [my goal] in the end, with a 1hr 7min but next year we try again." – Erin Barnard [15].



**Troop Scouter Denzil Barnard and Andrew Done**



**Kaei Robertson and Andrew Done**



# Winter camp a winner!

This year's winter camp for the school Scouting groups was held on the banks of the uMsinduzi River nestled down in the beautiful valley of the Thousand Hills. Over 750 Scouts and Cubs from around the province attended this five day camp. Apart from many fun activities, making new friends there were also may bases where the Scouts and Cubs were taught new Scouting skills under the watchful eye of the organisers, Goodenough and Mondli Dlamini. Hikes in the area were also arranged to allow badge work to be completed. Many visitors popped in during the week to greet the campers and of course there was much interest from the local residents who were delighted to see such a lot of Scouting activity with happy youngsters having so much outdoor fun right on their doorstep.



Scouts gather for a welcome address from Steve Camp, Provincial Chairman; KZN Scouts.



Goodenough Dlamini (kneeling bottom left) and Mondli Dlamini (kneeling bottom right) with their senior Scouts after a session on leadership and field craft skills.



Renaldo Boutle Apc Cubs and Pat Brown, Troop Scouter, 4th Durban on duty at the KZN Scout stand.

## Scouts on Show at Expo

For the third year running the KZN Scouts put up an excellent stand at the Sustainable Living Exhibition, held in Durban. This was a lively and colourful platform promoting the green revolution, offering sustainable living conditions for all. During this people-centred show, many people were surprised to see that Scouting was still alive and well. KZN Scouts also handed out many brochures about Scouting which has led to a number of new members. A big thanks to Imelda Haarhoff for organising our very professional looking display and to each of those who helped to man the stand over the three days.

## Sea Scouts take to the water



1st Port Natal Sea Scouts gather around a dingy they learnt how to sail on.

The recently revived 1st Port Natal Sea Scout group has not only been busy recruiting new members under the leadership of Koko Bora, but have also been busy learning the basics about sailing. Not one of the new members, all from the inner city, had ever been on the water before, which was a challenge. "It was important that being sea Scouts we not only learnt about sailing, but also felt confident on the water," said Troop Scouter Koko Bora. "We are grateful to the Sigma Rover crew who organised sponsorship for a five day training course through Sail Africa. We now need to put into practice what we were taught and spend time on the water." Tsepo Dlamini, one of the sea Scouts who attended the sailing course said, "I was very nervous about being on my own in the middle of the harbour on a small dingy, but I have gained confidence and know that I can in time become a yachtsman which is good as I want to do well in sea Scouts."

There were eight sea Scouts who attended all five days, each successfully passing, who's certificates are proudly on display in their group hall.

## Cub runs race in uniform

For about five years our family has done the race in uniform, either as a runner or as a clean-up. We normally did the 5Km and Christine always wanted to do the 10Km. I told her she can do it for her leaping wolf. We never trained for the 5K's, but for the 10K we did just to see if she was ready. On the day of the race she had flu, but still managed to complete it in 1:45:13. The entry to the finish was congested and I think we spent about 5 minutes to get in to Sahara Cricket stadium. We had so many positive comments from fellow competitors about Scouting and how great it was to see someone so young proudly running in uniform. Bravo Christine!



A confident looking Christine Potgieter in Cub uniform all ready to start the race.



# Highway District Excalibur Cub camp

**Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Your highness King Arthur summons the strongest and bravest Cubs of all the land!**

Come forth, brave and honourable Cubs and become one of King Arthur's legendary Knights of the Roundtable! The King and his Queen of the Highway District welcome you to their Kingdom and offer the opportunity to be knighted...

After many months of planning and collecting cardboard boxes (for the castles and shields) cardboard tubes (swords) and

many other intriguing items to complete the kit of a noble knight, camp Excalibur got underway at the 1st Hillcrest Scout grounds the last weekend in July. Over a 100 knights arrived to take part in this quest for adventure, where they built castles, made up their body armour, swords and shields, jousted on their noble horse (bicycles) and engaged in mock battles. A huge banquet was held followed by a campfire under starlit African skies. A fun time had by all and will be remembered

by all for many years to come as a fun Cub camp.

From all the parents and Cubs aka knights a HUGE thanks to the Jester, (Helen Lewis), Friar Tuck, (Kerry-Ann Dolloway), Linda Loubser, Samantha Balzer, Karin Carr, Renalda Boutle (king) and Robin Hood, (Anita Nelson-Esch) who were the leaders for Camp Excalibur, all the other adult leaders, and dads and mums who without your weekend of hard work, this camp wouldn't have happened!



## Scouting helps to overcome challenges

**Tyrone de Lange, Cub of the year, and Zhane Potgieter, Scout of the year, at the 1st Yellowwood Park Scout Group, both have learning disabilities and attend St Raphael school.** 1st Yellowwood Park Troop Scouter, Louise Potgieter said, "They would struggle to cope in a main stream school, but Scouting allows them to compete with main stream learners. Zhane has completed her Springbok and Tyrone is working on his leaping wolf. It's been heart warming watching how these two have really thrived in such a caring environment such as Scouting and the way in which they have integrated with their peers."



Tyrone de Lange and Zhane Potgieter proudly hold their trophies.

## 1st Cowies Hill Cubs achieve their Leaping Wolf

**Well done to Rudy Bellengere and Tristan Cheesman who's hard work paid off by achieving their Leaping Wolf badges.** Both Cubs are now proud Scouts at 1st Cowies Hill and have their eyes firmly set on their path towards their Springbok badge in years to come.



Rudy Bellengere is congratulated by Rikki Tikki Tavi, Pack Helper at 1st Cowies Hill Cub Pack (a.k.a. Ms Karin Carr) and Akela of 1st Cowies Hill Cub Pack, Mrs Linda Loubser, after being awarded his Leaping Wolf badge.



Tristan Cheesman with proud mom and dad, Bronwen and Steve Cheesman after receiving his Leaping Wolf badge.



## St. Theresa's Primary School Scout Group and eThekweni Rotary Club celebrate Arbor Week



The schools 40 Cubs and Scouts were thrilled to receive a beautiful Yellowwood tree to plant in the school grounds from Durban eThekweni Rotary Club for Arbor Day. The Cubs and Scouts were all treated to some refreshments by Rotary after the tree planting. Val Koopman (Pack Scouter), Virgil David (Troop Scouter) and Judy Elderton (District Cub Commissioner). The Principal Mr Akkers and the Deputy Principal of St. Theresa school, Imelda Haarhoff (President of Durban eThekweni Rotary Club) and Mrs Yvonne Lee – Rotarian were all present at this event.

## 4th Durban (St. Thomas) and 1st Port Sea Scouts Groups help at the 15th Annual Indigenous Plant Fair at Durban Botanical Gardens on 7 and 8 September

The Scouts were kept very busy over the weekend loading up carts with plants which the public were buying at the very popular annual Indigenous Plant Fair. The money the Scouts earned went towards equipment for their groups, hikes and camps.



## 4th Durban (St. Thomas) Scouts served a meal for 60 residents at the Ray Hullett Home on 7 September



St. Thomas Anglican church approached the 4th Durban Scout Group asking if they would cook and serve a meal for the 60 residents at Taft's Ray Hullett Home in Durban, making it is part of their outreach programme. It was great community service project for the Scout group.

Various parents and Scouters cooked the meal and Dylan Baker, St. John Giddy, Thaijal Rajdutt and Pack Scouters Judy Elderton, Delaine Rolston and Gabby Webber went to serve supper to these old folk.

The 4th Durban Cubs made up goody bags for the old folk with a couple of muffins and a choc bar inside at a pack meeting. These were handed out after supper.



# SIGMA Rovers visit Gilwell



*Cameron Belling(left) and Grant Vernon stand in front of the main gates of Gilwell that welcome all Scouts, past and current.*

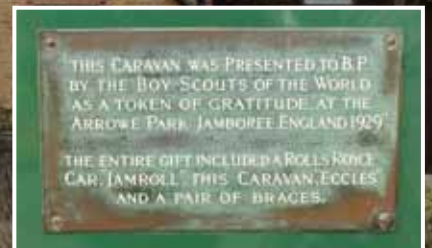


**On the 29th November 2013, Grant Vernon and Cameron Belling of Sigma Rover Crew made their way to the famous Gilwell Scout Camp in the United Kingdom.**

"Walking through the vast forests surrounding the campsite you can almost hear the famous calls of BP in the wind." said Cameron. A campsite rich in heritage and history, this is a must for every Scout

to visit at least once in their life time. The camp hosts a hotel and conference center which is open for public use. A permanent commando course is set up and many schools utilize the campsite for adventure retreats. Interesting sites to visit are the faith walk, offering a place of worship for most faiths including Buddhism, Judaism and Christianity. The dormitories which are all equipped with their own hall and

bunk bed accommodation. The watering hole which is actually a large crater from one of the Second World War bombings which has been converted into a dam for water activities. For more information you can catch Grant and Cameron at the next Warrant Course in 2014 where they'll both be speaking on the sites of Gilwell Scout Camp.





## Malvern's AIDS day project



The 1st Malvern Scout Group commemorated World AIDS Day with a special fund raiser and candle lighting ceremony. The group sold paper bags and candles and at Sundown the candles were lit in Ridley Park, Malvern. The lighting ceremony was preceded by speeches and a special prayer written by Patrol Leader Priyendren Enoch. Funds raised will be shared between the Group and the Ethelbert children's Home.

## Gone Home

### Fred Penn

**30-4-1929 to 25-06-2013**

Fred has gone home after being associated with 4th Durban St Thomas Scout group for over 30 years.

Fred's enthusiasm, positive attitude, commitment and

hard work will always be remembered by those who were fortunate enough to meet and be trained by Fred. Fred inspired and mentored many of us in Scouting and socially.

Fred joined 4th Durban St Thomas Scout group as an assistant Troop Scouter in 1983, in 1984 he became Troop Scouter and held this position until 1993 (9 years) When he was persuaded to take up the role as assistant district commissioner for the Greater Durban District which he did for 3 years. In 1996 he became Group Scouter of 4th Durban St Thomas Scout group, Fred was part of 4th Durban St Thomas Scout Group for over 30 years. 4th Durban St Thomas was his family.

4th Durban St Thomas has dedicated a trophy in honour and memory of Fred's contribution to 4th Durban St Thomas and Scouting.



### Val Powel

Val Powel, known as "Ma" to generations of Cubs and Scouts passed away on 23 July 2013. In Scouting terms, Ma has "Gone Home" the last leg of a fantastic journey of service to the people of Ladysmith and Scouts in general.

As Pack Scouter of 1st Ladysmith she brought joy to generations of Cubs and Scouts in the Ladysmith area. She has been associated with the Group for decades, and was one of the first Pack Scouters to include girls in Cubs. Her view was "How can we let the sisters stand outside while brothers are enjoying themselves" epitomising her attitude and love for all children. She symbolised the very spirit of Scouting, as was a living example of the Scout Promise, doing her best to serve the movement and the people of Ladysmith through her selfless attitude and love for all.

We will miss Val, but her spirit will remain on in Scouting, and especially at the 1st Ladysmith Group, where she will always be remembered as a true Scout.



Guy Solomon is presented with his Springbok award by Steve Thorne, Highway District Commissioner as 1st Hillcrest Scouts look on.

## Diary Dates

### January 2014

- |    |                         |
|----|-------------------------|
| 6  | KZN Head Quarters opens |
| 18 | Lay course at KZN HQ    |

### February 2014

- |       |                                       |
|-------|---------------------------------------|
| 1-2   | Warrant course, APC meeting at KZN HQ |
| 15-16 | Warrant course                        |
| 22-23 | Midmar Raft Race                      |
| 23    | BP Sunday at Midmar Dam               |

### March 2014

- |       |                                             |
|-------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1-2   | Oars Charge                                 |
| 15    | Provincial commissioners meeting at KZN HQ. |
| 28-30 | Pathfinder course                           |

### April 2014

- |     |                      |
|-----|----------------------|
| 2-6 | PPT course at KZN HQ |
| 18  | Good Friday          |

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The Gilwell reunion was held on 30 November with an interesting slide show by Garth Kloppenborg on his recent trip to the UK and visit to Gilwell. A colourful affair with strange looking hats made for an entertain and enjoyable afternoon.